

I am writing to raise my concerns about this proposed project.

The developer wishes to remove over 80 trees from two lots, including a sycamore tree that is 5 feet in diameter. This is an enormous loss of mature trees which sequester carbon and provide shade. The developer admits that he is unable to replace the trees with mature trees, so proposes to replace them with saplings and shrubs instead. Mature trees sequester much greater volumes of carbon than do saplings, and shrubs can't begin to make up for mature trees. It would take many years for newly-planted saplings to begin to achieve the same carbon sequestration, much less provide as much shade or simply be as beautiful as mature trees.

It is irresponsible to allow this destruction of tree canopy as we face a climate crisis. I urge the town to reject a Zoning Board of Appeals variance request related to destruction or removal of trees at this site. Such an exception creates a terrible precedent.

Cheryl Marceau